SWIFT IV SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2018

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

BFRP	Burkina Faso Regional Program
CSO	civil society organization
DDGS	direct distribution of goods and services
ERT	early recovery team
ICRI	Iraq Community Resilience Initiative
IDP	internally displaced person
IS	Islamic State
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
IQC	indefinite quantity contract
LTI	Libya Transition Initiative
MC	Municipal Council
MSI	Macedonia Support Initiative
MTOT	Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
SRP	Syria Regional Program
STTA	short-term technical assistance
SWIFT	Support Which Implements Fast Transitions
SCD	Syria Civil Defense
TO	task order
UCBI	Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VEO	violent extremist organization

INTRODUCTION

Chemonics International presents its Semi-Annual Progress Report for Contract AID-OAA-I-14-00006 (SWIFT IV sub-IQCs A and B) for the period of April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018. Section I presents the performance monitoring report. Section II presents the contract financial report, including the notification of new task order (TO) report and the modifications to existing task orders report. This report summarizes activities specifically related to the blanket SWIFT IV IQC contract. TO-level reports will include detailed information on individual TOs.

Submitted to:	USAID – Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI)
By:	Chemonics International Inc.
Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC):	Support Which Implements Fast Transitions IV (SWIFT IV) sub-IQCs A and B
Contract Number:	AID-OAA-I-14-00006
Reporting Period:	April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018

PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Chemonics International has been awarded eight TOs under the SWIFT IV IQC: the Côte d'Ivoire Transition Initiative 2 (closed), Libya Transition Initiative 2 (closed), Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (closed), Syria Regional Program II, Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative II, Libya Transition Initiative 3, Macedonia Support Initiative 2, and the Burkina Faso Regional Program. No major issues or concerns related to the SWIFT IV IQC were raised during the reporting period.

BURKINA FASO REGIONAL PROGRAM

The OTI/Burkina Faso Regional Program TO was awarded on July 16, 2018 and is working towards the overall goal of maintaining and deepening stability in Burkina Faso, including by addressing the threat posed by violent extremist organizations (VEO). The program works through the following four key objectives in support of this goal: 1) Increase community engagement in the delivery of public services in the Sahel; 2) Increase positive attitudes among the public toward Burkinabe security forces; 3) Increase level of disdain among the general public toward VEOs; 4) Increase level of economic optimism among public/residents of the Sahel. Work under the OTI/BFRP programming will primarily focus in strategic areas where windows of opportunity emerge, including areas around Djibo, Dori, and Ouahigouya in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso.

During this reporting period, OTI/BFRP has been in Phase I – Start-Up Phase. With the support of a dedicated startup team, the project set up its central administrative office in Ouagadougou, recruited and on-boarded most of the staff, and received its fiscal registration, enabling the project to open bank accounts, which was a critical step for its operations. This momentum was continued with support from short-term assignments in grants and recruitment. Operational start-up for programmatic hubs in Dori and Ouahigouya is ongoing. Several additional short-term startup and training support assignments are planned for the months of October and November in the areas of procurement, environmental compliance, finance and accounting, and grants.

Further, during this reporting period, Chemonics submitted a wide range of deliverables to fulfill the deliverable requirements for Phase I- Start-Up, including the Phase I Work Plan, the Phase I Staffing Plan, and updates on project registration. Many key deliverables are planned for submission in October such as the Branding Implementation and Marking Plan and all environmental deliverables (C-IEE, EMMP, IAP). Additionally, the team is preparing to submit to OTI the remaining key deliverables, such as the Security Plan and the Activity Manual Addendum, in early November.

During this period, the security environment in Burkina Faso remained extremely volatile. A series of attacks and incidents were reported in the eastern region; however, after the end of the rainy season, there was an uptick of incidents in the northern regions near the Sahel. The rise of attacks and incidents coincided with the onboarding of the Risk Management Specialist, who provided inputs to the draft Emergency Action Plan and developed draft journey management protocols for the field.

Finally, during this reporting period, the program had four activities yellow-lighted and clearances are expected for October. The team is brainstorming and fleshing out new activity concepts for submission.

UKRAINE CONFIDENCE BUILDING INITIATIVE II

The Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI) II TO was awarded on April 10, 2017 and continues the work of UCBI with an overall program goal of eastern Ukraine having greater confidence in Ukraine's democratic reform and European integration. The project works through three objectives in support of this goal; 1) increase acceptance of a Ukrainian civic identity based on common values; 2) broaden participation in Ukraine's reform process; and 3) build trust and acceptance of objective pro-reform information. Work under UCBI II focuses on the liberated areas of the Donbas, in addition to national-level initiatives.

Between April 1, 2018 and September 30, 2018, UCBI II initiated a total of 37 activities, including sub-grants, short-term technical assistance (STTA), and direct distribution of goods and services (DDGS) for a committed total of $3,844,678.69. Activities during this period focused on improving service delivery, expanding engagement in a modern Ukrainian culture and common values among diverse groups, and improving optimism about the economic transformation of eastern Ukraine among key stakeholders. UCBI II has no administrative or bureaucratic constraints to performance to report.

Key activities implemented during this reporting period include:

- *Mariupol Book Toloka Festival*: In April 2018, UCBI II supported a large-scale literature event in Mariupol aiming to connect the local community with modern Ukrainian culture, and to build a team of local organizers and volunteers enthusiastic about promoting a modern Ukrainian mindset. In total, 200 cultural and civic events took place during the two-day festival, which attracted 3,000 visitors from Mariupol, neighboring communities, and other regions; 32 Ukrainian publishing houses; and 139 cultural figures, including prominent Ukrainian writers. Holding this book festival in Mariupol helped break down stereotypes about Mariupol as an industrial, Russian-leaning city that lacks a culture of reading. Mariupol's Department of Cultural and Social Development is planning to include the festival in its 2019 city events workplan and provide financial support. Based on increased demand for Ukrainian literature in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the National Book Institute has expressed interest in expanding the festival beyond Mariupol.

- *Building bridges between activists and local authorities*: UCBI II is creating conditions for constructive dialogue between the public and local authorities to increase trust and productive engagement between the two. UCBI II experts worked with local authorities and civic representatives to develop a code of conduct to help guide their interactions and ensure they are constructive. UCBI II also procured an interactive whiteboard, equipment for online video streaming, and a laptop to support the functionality and mobility of this "communications platform" and improve the quality and effectiveness of public meetings. As a result of this activity, Mariupol activists and the local authorities are more engaged in honest, constructive, and productive dialogue.

- *Peacebuilding campaign in action:* UCBI II supported a peacebuilding campaign for Ukraine's Independence Day initiated on August 24th by the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MTOT). To promote the idea of peace, which remains the main concern of Ukrainians, UCBI II supported the development of six stories about ordinary Ukrainians who wished Ukraine a Happy Independence Day as well as peace and prosperity. A separate page for the campaign on the MTOT website provided regular Ukrainians with an opportunity to create their own greeting card with wishes for Ukraine and approximately 5,000 people created postcards. The campaign started just two weeks before Independence Day and was promoted on TV and through digital and traditional advertising channels, reaching more than 13 million Ukrainians. Famous celebrities, including soccer stars, singers, actors, and writers also participated in the campaign.

LIBYA TRANSITION INITIATIVE 3

The Libya Transition Initiative (LTI) 3 is a follow-on program launched in May 2017 to support Libya's resilience to fragmentation and spoilers. LTI 3 utilizes a quick-response mechanism to implement activities nationwide aimed at preventing further deterioration in political and security conditions, and keeping the space open for civilian leadership, reconciliation, and a positive political transition. During the reporting period, LTI 3 worked toward the following objectives: 1) improving stability in strategic, conflict-affected areas, 2) increasing citizens' confidence in their public institutions; and 3) reducing the influence of extremist groups in strategic areas.

During the reporting period, LTI 3 brought on a new chief of party (COP), expanded operational capacity by adding an accountant to the Tunis-based team, and filled several key grants management positions. LTI 3's new COP and DCOP-Programs visited Libya twice during the reporting period, establishing a firmer presence in Libya thereby enabling LTI 3 to strengthen relationships with grantees, vendors, and other stakeholders as well as identifying banking solutions in the face of ongoing liquidity challenges.

LTI 3 is programming in the west, east, center and south of Libya, including activities at the local, regional, and national levels. During the reporting period, a total of 47 activities worth an estimated $14.3 million were under implementation. Key activities under implementation during this reporting period include:

- *Abu Dina Road Rehabilitation Targets Tripoli's Marginalized Fashloum District*: In August 2018, the Tripoli Center neighborhood of Fashloum held a town hall-style meeting, followed by celebrations to mark the completion of the Abu Dina Road. The Tripoli Center Mayor thanked residents for their support, noting that the road rehabilitation is the biggest project to have been completed in Fashloum in years and pledging additional support in the future. Fashloum is an underdeveloped neighborhood in the Tripoli Center municipality that is perceived as being in favor of the Dignity Operation Coalition, which is counter to prevailing political sentiment in the region. In an effort to better integrate Fashloum with the municipality, LTI 3 supported the Tripoli Center Municipal Council (MC) to rehabilitate the Abu Dina Road. The effort also helped the MC demonstrate responsiveness to a petition by residents requesting the road repairs. This activity contributed to the program's efforts to increase confidence in public institutions to reduce space for spoilers to exploit governance gaps.

- *Ubari MC Moves City's Recovery One Step Forward with School Improvements:* This spring, LTI 3 supported the Ubari MC to accelerate recovery in the southern Libyan city by delivering much-needed furniture and equipment to four educational institutions in central Ubari. The project, which built upon the rehabilitation of these facilities by the UN Development Programme, enabled uninterrupted education through the timely provision of new desks and chairs, whiteboards, and stationery for approximately 2,000 students. School administrators also received office equipment, including desktop computers, to facilitate their work.

- *Emergency Response to Fallout of Sabha Conflict:* In August 2018, LTI 3 delivered medical supplies to Sabha Medical Center and Murzuq General Hospital to minimize resentment among conflict-affected communities in Sabha and neighboring Murzuq amid concerns over the potential resumption of fighting between the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu communities in Sabha. Protracted fighting between armed members of the two tribes paralyzed Sabha and impacted much of the south from February to May 2018. The conflict displaced hundreds of families and put additional strain on health facilities in Sabha and in the Tebu-dominated town of Murzuq. In times of conflict, many Tebu – in particular those living on the southern outskirts of Sabha and further south in Murzuq – lose access to Sabha Medical Center, either due to road closures or fears of retaliation from Sabha's majority Awlad Suleiman population. The two hospitals, which serve an estimated 300,000 people in the southern Fezzan region, both face severe shortages.

SYRIA REGIONAL PROGRAM II

The Syria Regional Program (SRP) II is a three-year program with two one-year option periods and a total estimated cost of $211,127,050. It was awarded on August 28, 2015. The program builds on the work of the Syria Regional Program and aims to build a moderate, inclusive and stable Syria by: 1) enabling the early recovery of areas newly liberated from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS); 2) strengthening communities to better resist extremism; and 3) maintaining and increasing the influence of strategic moderate entities. During the reporting period, programming in Iraq also began in June 2018 with USAID/OTI's activation of the Ramp-up Option Phase 5.

In this reporting period, SRP II has been in Phase II – Full Implementation. The project ramped up operations and grants activities across the Berlin (hereafter referred to as "SCSI") and Turkey (hereafter referred to as "SRP") platforms, reaching the milestone of 254 activities in the database for an approximate value of about $44.8 million, including 248 closed or completed activities and 6 cleared activities in implementation. Further, during this reporting period, a revised emergency and information security plan, accruals report, agricultural commodities report, and weekly status reports kept USAID/OTI updated on the progress of SRP and SCSI platforms. During this period SRP II closed Turkey offices in Gaziantep and Istanbul. SRP II has no administrative or bureaucratic constraints to performance to report.

Examples of activities implemented during this reporting period include:

- *Countering extremism in newly liberated areas through promoting an alternative media narrative:* With support from USAID/OTI, SRP II enhanced community resilience by providing Syrian audiences with content that undermines extremism and promotes and alternative narrative. SRP II supported a civil society organization (CSO) to produce and publish 12 video episodes that focused on undermining extremist propaganda, exposing ISIS's manipulation and brainwashing of communities that it controlled in parts of the province of Aleppo. Episodes have highlighted the role of volunteering and service work in countering extremism, raised awareness about mines left behind by ISIS, emphasized the importance of archeological heritage and the war's impact on this critical element of Syrian history, discussed extremist ideology and teaching under ISIS, and the importance of the education system. The CSO also produced a short video for children who were internally displaced from another part of Syria to support their transition to life in a new location. Each of the episodes received about 10,000 views and generally received positive feedback. By supporting the production of such content, USAID/OTI is promoting a moderate alternative narrative that undermines extremism, enhancing the community's resilience to extremist ideology.

- *Increasing community engagement to promote social recovery in areas liberated from ISIS:* USAID/OTI supported a local organization in establishing and operating a community center in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in an area previously under ISIS control. The community center aims to address the basic social needs of IDPs in newly liberated areas while securing a safe space for moderate activities fit for diverse audiences away from extremist influence. The community center hosts several activities daily, ranging from chess, English and Arabic basic literacy courses, theater, music, dance, cinema, drawing, field trips, among others. Due to larger than anticipated participation in community center activities, the organization was able to expand the center to allow for more participants with USAID/OTI support. Participants have commented on the quality of activities, but also on the sense of community that the center has created. The organization is also establishing a virtual presence as a moderate community-based actor, with more than 7,500 followers for its activities and updates online. The establishment and successful running of the center contributes to USAID/OTI's strategy to engage women, youth and children in community events that promote alternative social and political views to those of extremist groups.

- *Community-based approach to early recovery of newly liberated areas through basic services:* Since Raqqa's liberation from ISIS in October 2017, the early recovery team (ERT) has been working in the city through rapid response mechanisms, which enabled them to clean up streets by removing rubble and debris and distributing water and bread to civilians in the city. Community members identified lighting as a priority to allow for people to navigate streets at night safely. With the support of USAID/OTI and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and in response to growing infrastructure and rehabilitation needs in the area, the SRP II-supported ERT installed approximately 140 solar-powered lights on both previously existing and newly installed poles along three key roads in the city. Websites and individuals publicized the project, gaining positive feedback from the online community for the visible initiative. By completing this activity and other similar ones on a routine basis, the ERT is filling service provision gaps in northeastern Syria, which continues to contribute to the larger strategy of early recovery and stabilization in northeastern Syria allowing people to return to their homes and reestablish their lives.

IRAQ COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

ICRI was established in June 2018 as a Ramp-up Option under the SRP II TO to promote the overall goal of supporting the safe and voluntary return of displaced populations, including minorities, in areas liberated from ISIS, by improving stability and social cohesion in these areas. The project works through two objectives to support this goal: 1) improving stability in conflict-affected areas; and 2) improving social cohesion in conflict affected areas.

During this reporting period, ICRI has been in both start-up and full implementation phases. The project, originally based in the Syria Community Stabilization Initiative office, changed office locations and began designing and implementing activities in Ninewa Province. As of September 30, 2018, ICRI has cleared a total of 22 activities for implementation, four of which are completed and/or closed. Furthermore, during this reporting period, three submissions of the Phase 5 staffing plan, two submissions of the inventory, the Activity Manual Addendum, Activity Cycle Flowchart, Start-up Workplan, and Emergency and Information Security Plan were submitted to OTI to fulfill deliverable requirements. Weekly status reports kept OTI updated on the progress of the ICRI platform. During this period, ICRI fielded a short-term Regional Program Manager and a replacement short-term Regional Program Manager as key personnel. ICRI has no administrative or bureaucratic constraints to performance to report.

ICRI contributed to improving stability in the Ninewa Province and surrounding communities by supporting civil society and faith-based organizations and local governance actors to restore livelihoods and basic services in conflict-affected areas. The following activities highlight ICRI's efforts to accelerate recovery and reduce the impact of the conflict in communities liberated by ISIS.

- *Improving the provision of electricity and water supply in Bandiwaya:* With support from USAID/OTI, a local partner received a hybrid in-kind/fixed amount award grant to equip the village of Bandiwaya with a new 100 kVA generator to ensure the sustainable

provision of electricity and water for its residents. During the site visit and after-action review, community members reported having improved services, with a female resident saying, "We have access to electricity from 10-12 hours per day and two rounds of water supply every day"—a notable difference from the previous generator which provided 2 hours of electricity per day and no water supply.

- *Supporting students in Bashiqa:* ICRI provided essential printing and scanning equipment to support the restoration of education services. Equipment was delivered to the Education Directorate and 21 schools in Bashiqa looted and damaged by ISIS.

- *Enhancing public service delivery and supporting microenterprise in Tal Afar:* In Tal Afar, a former strategic town connecting ISIS supply routes between Mosul and Syria, ICRI supported a local partner with electronic equipment, including laptops, printers, air conditioners, and generators, that were used throughout 17 schools in the community. Additionally, ICRI trained women from diverse backgrounds in business management and equipped them with materials to relaunch their seamstress businesses. During the final ceremony to mark the graduation of women beneficiaries from the training course, speakers discussed the impact that this activity will have in creating economic opportunities that will contribute to a sense of recovery in the area. Directors of the municipality and other local entities expressed gratitude for USAID/OTI's support through ICRI in creating economic opportunities that are vital to the recovery of the area. At the end of the ceremony, trainees were presented with sewing machines, sewing materials and fabrics provided by ICRI.

- *Back in Business: Promoting Economic Recovery in Mosul:* ICRI is providing business and management training for 44 individuals who lost their businesses to war and displacement. ICRI will also provide supplies and equipment necessary to relaunch their businesses. Business management consultants delivered a three-day training to 43 Mosul business owners on topics such as business and management techniques and tools to relaunch successful businesses. As part of the activity, the beneficiaries signed memoranda of understanding with Friends for Youth Forum to ensure the supplies and equipment will be well-maintained and used for their intended purpose and restating their commitment to reopen their businesses.

In addition to accelerating recovery efforts, ICRI aims to improve social cohesion in Ninewa Province and surrounding communities by fostering positive interactions between diverse political, ethnic, and sectarian groups. By supporting activities that provide meaningful opportunities to strengthen the resilience of communities, ICRI hopes to accelerate the reconciliation process and encourage displaced families to return to their homes.

- *Removing ISIS propaganda in Sinjar's periphery:* With ICRI's support, a local organization engaged youth from different ethnic and religious backgrounds in community beautification and peacebuilding activities to remove ISIS propaganda in Central Sinjar and surrounding areas.

- *Interfaith commemoration of Yazidi genocide*: ICRI sponsored three public events in Bashiqa, Teskharab, and Mosul to commemorate the suffering of the Yazidi community and promote inter-faith dialogue. The events drew more than 800 community and religious leaders and promoted discussions on grievances and intercommunal tensions. During an after-action review discussion conducted with various event participants, the group agreed that the events promoted dialogue and trust among participants, citing that olive branches and white flowers were exchanged between Yezidi and Muslims to send a message of solidarity and peace.

MACEDONIA SUPPORT INITIATIVE II

USAID/OTI's Macedonia Support Initiative (MSI) II compliments the US government's efforts to support the country's entry into the broader Euro-Atlantic community. The program provides fast, flexible, short-term assistance to local partners in support of reforms started by the Government of Macedonia, with the aim of helping the Macedonian government strengthen democratic processes by promoting accountability, transparency, and inclusive political participation. MSI II will work closely with a range of partners, including national and local government entities, civil society organizations, and media actors, to ensure that activities respond to local priorities and address underlying concerns; bolster democratic reforms; increase access to reliable information; and create spaces for diverse civic engagement.

MSI II was awarded on August 15, 2018. Due to the political and security issues surrounding the referendum regarding the country's name on September 30, 2018, the Start-Up Team was scheduled to deploy during the first week of October. In August and September, MSI II held a Start-Up Conference in Washington, DC, initiated remote recruitment efforts, authored key project policy and planning documents, engaged in budget planning, addressed logistical matters, discussed information security concerns, initiated key procurement actions, and coordinated with the implementer of MSI I.

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